



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWR Announces Draft Funding Recommendations for Grants to Save Water and Energy

Nearly 70 Percent of Funds to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities

Sacramento – Strengthening California’s response to drought and long-term climate change, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced draft recommendations for the award of \$19 million to 15 entities for projects that save both water and energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

After a month-long public comment period, the Department will review comments. A final funding decision is expected in early May.

Once approved, the grants will be the first for DWR using proceeds from California’s cap-and-trade program for combating climate change. Through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, DWR and other state agencies are investing in projects that reduce carbon pollution while also creating jobs, improving air quality and providing other benefits, such as energy and water savings.

In all, the 15 projects are estimated to save a total of 110,000 acre-feet and prevent the release of approximately 164,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change.

The projects include replacement of toilets, showerheads, faucets, and washing machines in hundreds of homes. Other projects involve rebates for smart irrigation controllers and waterless urinals and replacement of turf with drought-tolerant landscaping.

Nearly 70 percent of the funding will provide benefits to disadvantaged communities, which are specifically targeted for investments from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The communities where DWR proposes to award grants include Alpaugh, San Bernardino, Farmersville, Orange Cove, Sacramento, Hidden Valley and Tulare County.

The tentative funding awards may be viewed [here](#).

The projects are part of the California Climate Investments program, a broad multi-agency State initiative to invest proceeds from the cap-and-trade program in California communities for projects that directly reduce greenhouse gases and provide a wide variety of additional benefits.

The proposals come under the 2014 Water-Energy Grant Program. This program is funded with proceeds from the cap-and-trade program, a state program to fight climate change by limiting the amount of greenhouse gases that large polluters can put into the atmosphere. Proceeds from that program go into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction fund ((Health and Safety Code §39710 *et seq.*), and through the budget process, are allocated

to several State agencies for investments in California communities to reduce greenhouse gases. Funds for the Water-Energy Grant Program were appropriated by the 2014 Drought legislation (Senate Bill 103 Section 11 (2013-2014 Reg. Sess.)).

The 2014 Water-Energy Grant Program provides funding to support the implementation of residential, commercial, and institutional water efficiency programs or projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also reduce water and energy usage.

The public comment period for 2014 Water-Energy Grant Program draft funding recommendations begins on March 30, 2015, and will close on April 24, 2015. Written comments can be submitted in hardcopy or electronic format (WORD, PDF) via the following methods:

Email:

DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

U.S. Mail:

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Attn: Joe Yun

A public meeting to solicit public comments will be held at the following location:

Meeting Date & Time	Location
April 17, 2015 3:00 PM This meeting will be webcast	CalEPA Building Sierra Hearing Room 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95812

The meeting will be webcast and may be viewed from the following link: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>.

Additional information on the 2014 Water-Energy Grant Program can be viewed at this link: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterenergygrant/index.cfm>.



– 30 –

Visit SaveOurWater.com to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit <http://drought.ca.gov> to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought. The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

